

EAST CENTRAL

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A YEAR IN REVIEW



August 8, 2016

2020 Vision: A Year in Review

Adopted in February 2013, ECCC's **2020 Vision** strategic plan represents a shared vision and roadmap for the future of East Central Community College. In addition to the adoption of a mission statement, vision statement, and core values, **2020 Vision** also included five Institutional Commitments—Student Success, Teaching and Learning, Community Partnerships, Resource Planning and Development, and Communication—which serve as core functions for the college as it strives to achieve its vision and fulfill its mission. These commitments have been an integral part of **2020 Vision** and guide every decision made by the college. The strategic plan includes the college's long-term desire to be nationally recognized and locally preferred, while meeting the educational and training needs of its five-county district in Mississippi—Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties.

The results of the FY2016 ECCC Survey of Campus Climate indicate that aggregate student, faculty, and staff satisfaction with the progress of each of the five Institutional Commitments of the college's **2020 Vision** strategic plan increased over the previous year. We are pleased to share with you just some accomplishments within the five Institutional Commitments during the most recent academic year.

Student Success

Record Graduating Class

For the second straight year, East Central graduated its largest class of students in the institution's 88-year history. ECCC awarded degrees or certificates to 597 students during the 2015-16 academic year, the largest one-year total since the college was founded in 1928. It was a 5.1 percent increase over the previous academic year, which at the time was the largest graduating class in East Central history. The record graduating class included a 33 percent increase in students receiving technical or career certificates over the previous year, a direct result of a reformatting in fall 2014 of exit points for students in these programs. Other initiatives implemented by the college in recent years that contributed to this increase included:

- Waiving the \$40 graduation fee as an incentive for more students to apply for graduation and officially complete programs of study.
- Reducing the number of hours needed for a two-year associate degree from 62 to 60 to align with the 120 hours needed for a baccalaureate degree.
- Increasing the number of hours needed for a full-time course load from 12 to 15 hours so that students successfully completing a full load of 15 hours over four semesters have an opportunity to graduate in two years.
- Reducing late registration from five class days to two days so that students who register late only miss one day of classes at the beginning of each semester.
- Requiring all full-time faculty members to devote one hour per week tutoring students in the Success Center.



Graduation/Retention Rate Success

The most recent data from the Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System (IPEDS), a primary source for college enrollment data for all institutions participating in Title IV programs, showed ECCC with a one-year increase of 5 percent in its graduation rate (28 percent to 33 percent) and a 4 percent increase in student retention (61 percent to 65 percent).

Transfer GPA

For the second straight year, students who transferred from ECCC to four-year institutions earned the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA) of all community college transfers in the state of Mississippi. Students who transferred from ECCC to one of the state's eight public, four-year institutions earned a 3.22 GPA, according to data released from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). Students from the community/junior college with the second highest GPA earned a 3.21. The average for all 15 community colleges combined was a 3.13 GPA. The report also again showed that community college transfer students performed academically as well or better in university courses than students who began their education at the senior institutions. The "native" students earned a 3.10 GPA.

Intercollegiate Athletics

During 2015-16, ECCC saw nine of the college's 10 varsity sports teams compete in postseason play, making East Central the only community or junior college in Mississippi to have that many teams qualify for the postseason. In addition, six of the 10 teams were nationally ranked at some point in their seasons.

- The Warrior football team advanced to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) state playoffs losing 27-20 to eventual National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Champion Northwest Mississippi Community College. East Central capped off its best season in 16 years last December with a 35-21 win over No. 20 Kilgore College in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl. The Warriors finished the 2015 season with an 8-3 record, the best won-loss record since 1999. The Warriors were ranked No. 10 in the final 2015 NJCAA Top 20 Poll.
- The men's and women's soccer teams both advanced to MACJC postseason play. The women's soccer team began the season with a school-record eight straight victories and advanced to the semifinals of the MACJC/NJCAA Region 23 Tournament for the first time in school history before dropping a 2-1 match to eventual champion Pearl River Community College.
- The Lady Warrior basketball team captured its first MACJC State Championship in a dozen years in February with a 75-63 win over Itawamba Community College. It was the sixth state title in college history. The team won 19 straight games at one point during the season and finished with a 24-3 record. The Lady Warriors were ranked No. 23 in the nation prior to the state tournament.
- Both the ECCC men's and women's tennis teams played in the MACJC/NJCAA Region 23 Tournament played at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College following the completion of regular season play.
- The men's golf team finished fourth in the MACJC State Tournament and advanced to the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament where it also finished in fourth place. The team was ranked as high as No. 5 in the fall in the NJCAA Men's Golf Division II Poll.
- The Lady Diamond Warrior softball team began the season ranked No. 2 in the nation and compiled a 44-11 record and a No. 11 national ranking at season's end. The team finished third in both the MACJC State Tournament and the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.



- The No. 10 ranked ECCC baseball team won the MACJC State Baseball Championship May 14 with a dramatic win in the bottom of the ninth inning over No. 2 ranked and tournament host Jones County Junior College. The Diamond Warriors then hosted the 2016 NJCAA Region 23 Baseball Tournament at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex in Decatur and finished second. It was the fourth MACJC State Championship in East Central baseball history, and the third won by teams coached by Neal Holliman.
- Of the 11 Mississippi Association of Coaches "Coach of the Year" awards following the 2015-16 MACJC sports seasons, three of them were from East Central. ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman was the association's Baseball Coach of the Year, Head Football Coach Ken Karcher was Football Coach of the Year, and Head Women's Basketball Coach Crandal Porter was Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. Holliman and Porter also were named the MACJC Coach of the Year.
- The ECCC student-athletes and varsity sports teams also excelled in the classroom. Seventy seven East Central athletes qualified for an NJCAA and/or a MACJC academic award based on having a grade-point average of 3.25 or higher. In addition, six of the 10 teams qualified for academic honors for having team GPAs of 3.0 or higher.

All-Mississippi Academic Team

Sophomores Ben Pace of Philadelphia and Anthony Emmons of Lake were named to the 2016 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team. Pace, a pre-dental major, was one of 15 students named to the First Team. He received a \$1,000 scholarship. Emmons, a liberal arts major, was one of 42 students named to the Second Team. The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

Hall of Fame

Recipients of ECCC Hall of Fame and other honors were recognized during the annual Awards Day program held April 28. Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college. Hall of Fame inductees for 2016 included: Hannah Mitchell, a liberal arts major from Newton County High School; Anthony Emmons, a liberal arts major from Lake High School; Louise Berryhill, a pre-med major from Newton County High School; Benjamin Pace, a pre-dentistry major from Neshoba Central High School; Kaylee Yates, a pre-physical therapy major from Newton County High School; and Devin Skinner, a pre-engineering major from Neshoba Central High School.



Selected for NASA Program

Six members of Alpha Epsilon engineering club at East Central were selected to participate in NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars program. Those selected for the prestigious program at Stennis Space Center April 11-14 included Kellen Clark of Chunky, John Creekmore of Noxapater, Megan Parrish of Pascagoula and Aaron Scoggin of Lawrence. Lane Wooten of Carthage was selected to participate at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., also held April 11-14. Samuel Mitchell of Decatur participated at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, May 22-25. The ECCC students worked on a team project mentored by NASA engineers, attended briefings by engineers and scientists, toured NASA facilities, and completed a rover competition.

PBL Honors

Members of ECCC's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda competed in 21 events during state competition and had winners in each category. Each of the 20 members participating placed first in at least one event and attended the national competition this summer in Atlanta. Theta Chi was also recognized for largest chapter in membership, Gold Seal Recognition, and Foundation Recognition. ECCC earned seven awards at the national competition in Atlanta, including first place and a \$700 cash award for Local Chapter Annual Business Report. The chapter also received the Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit.

SkillsUSA Awards

Eighteen East Central Community College students captured top awards in 15 areas at the 2015-16 Mississippi SkillsUSA competition. All five first place winners advanced to the SkillsUSA National Conference in Louisville, Ky., this summer.

Success Center

The Success Center was relocated from the Smith Student Union Building to the Burton Library to provide more convenient access to students. The purpose of the Success Center is to provide academic success skills, tutorial and computer assisted instruction for students who need assistance with academic studies. Internal data suggests student use of the Success Center is a factor in higher achievement in coursework.

Orientation Courses

To enhance the first-year college experience, ECCC developed self-paced Preview and Orientation courses to help students prepare for their first semester of college enrollment. The ECCC Preview Course is designed to assist new students in better understanding the East Central student experience prior to their first course registration. After the course, students should be better equipped to ask questions pertinent to their educational goals and to know where to go and who to see for the answers. A sequel to the Preview Course, the ECCC Orientation Course, is made available at the beginning of a student's first semester. Both of these courses are intended for new, first-time college students. The ultimate goal of the Preview and Orientation courses is to help students begin to lay the foundation for their college success.

Student Engagement

East Central Community College improved in all five areas of student engagement measured in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) administered in spring 2015. CCSSE gauges the level of student engagement at a community college, a key indicator of learning. Administered every other spring semester to students, the survey assesses institutional practices and student behaviors that are correlated highly with student learning and student retention. From spring 2013 to spring 2015, the ECCC students surveyed indicated higher levels of satisfaction in Active and Collaborative Learning, Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction, and Support for Learners than students in spring 2013. ECCC performed above the national average in all five categories, and above the 2015 Top-Performing Colleges in Active and Collaborative Learning and Student-Faculty Interaction.

Intramural Participation

Participation by East Central Community College students in intramural sports saw a substantial increase in spring 2016 with the addition of the new sports of indoor volleyball, outdoor sand volleyball, and disc golf. Other new intramural sports are being considered for the 2016-17 academic year.



Arthur Ashe Scholar

ECCC softball standout Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg was recognized as a 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar in the April 21 edition of *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*. Approximately 1,000 male and female students from across the country were nominated for the award that honors undergraduate students of color who best exemplify academic and athletic achievement. The award is inspired by tennis legend Arthur Ashe Jr.'s commitment to education. A product of Oak Grove High School, Gibson was an NJCAA Division II Softball All-America Second Team selection in 2016 and a First Team selection in 2015.

Major League Baseball

Tim Anderson, who led East Central to the 2013 MACJC State Baseball Tournament championship, was called up by the Chicago White Sox in May 2016 and started at shortstop in his first game. Anderson, who was playing for the club's Triple A team in Charlotte, N.C., when he got called up to Chicago, had a double in his first big league at-bat. Through his first 16 games in the major leagues, Anderson had 20 hits, including five doubles and three home runs, and had scored 13 runs, while playing errorless ball at shortstop. A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Anderson was selected a 2013 NJCAA Division II Baseball All-American, the 2013 NJCAA Division II Baseball Player of the Year and received the 2012-13 NJCAA David Rowlands Award-Male Student Athlete of the Year. He was the White Sox's No. 1 pick in the 2013 Major League Draft.



MACJC Sports Hall of Fame

Former ECCC baseball standout Marcus Thames was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies in April at the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl. A Louisville native, Thames played baseball at East Central in 1996-97 and led the 1997 team with a then school-record .420 batting average, 13 home runs, and 70 RBIs. Thames was drafted by the New York Yankees and also played for the Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers. Thames currently is the assistant hitting coach of the New York Yankees.

Mr. and Miss ECCC

Sophomores Ben Pace, a pre-dental major from Philadelphia, and Skylar Davidson, a nursing major from Morton, were selected Mr. and Miss ECCC for the 2015-16 school year by vote of the student body in February. Davidson was co-president of the Warrior Corps, vice president of the Student Body Association, and Homecoming Queen. Pace was president of Phi Theta Kappa and co-president of Warrior Corps.

Teaching and Learning

Four-Day Class Schedule

ECCC began a two-semester pilot of a four-day class schedule beginning with the spring 2016 semester. College officials believe the four-day class schedule contributed to the significant 15 percent increase in the number of regular admission, or "new to East Central," students for the spring 2016 term as compared to spring 2015. Students and faculty are being surveyed in order to evaluate the pilot in terms of its intended purpose, which is to enhance student success and teaching and learning. Under this schedule, students are in classes Monday through Thursday. Fridays are a time for students to participate in learning activities outside of the classroom and visit with faculty in their offices.

MI-BEST

East Central Community College is now offering Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST), a program that allows qualified participants to obtain their high school equivalency diploma while simultaneously working on college credit courses. The new program began in January for qualified students. There is no cost for tuition for MI-BEST students. Whitney Amis of Decatur and Erin Tramill of Newton are serving as recruiters/navigators for ECCC's MI-BEST program.

Rural Physicians/Dentists Scholarships

East Central Community College students Louise Berryhill of Union and Taylor Lott of Forest were selected to participate in the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. The program identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice medicine. Benjamin Pace of Philadelphia and Evan Derrick of Morton were chosen for the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program. Similar to the Rural Physicians Program, it identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice general dentistry. Both scholarship programs offer recipients academic enrichment, faculty and physician/dentist mentoring, and school financial support.

Biomedical Summer Internship

Alana Knowles of Decatur, a pre-medicine major, was selected for the Mississippi INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) Scholars Program, an 11-week long summer internship which allows students to explore their chosen field of study outside of a classroom setting. The program seeks to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as impact the health of citizens of Mississippi.

Top 25 PTK Chapter

East Central Community College's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, was included on the organization's inaugural President's List, which recognizes the Top 25 chapters across the nation with the highest membership acceptance rates. The list is based on chapters' acceptance rates in 2015. East Central's Theta Xi Chapter was ranked No. 18 with a 41 percent acceptance rate.

Business Instructors Honored

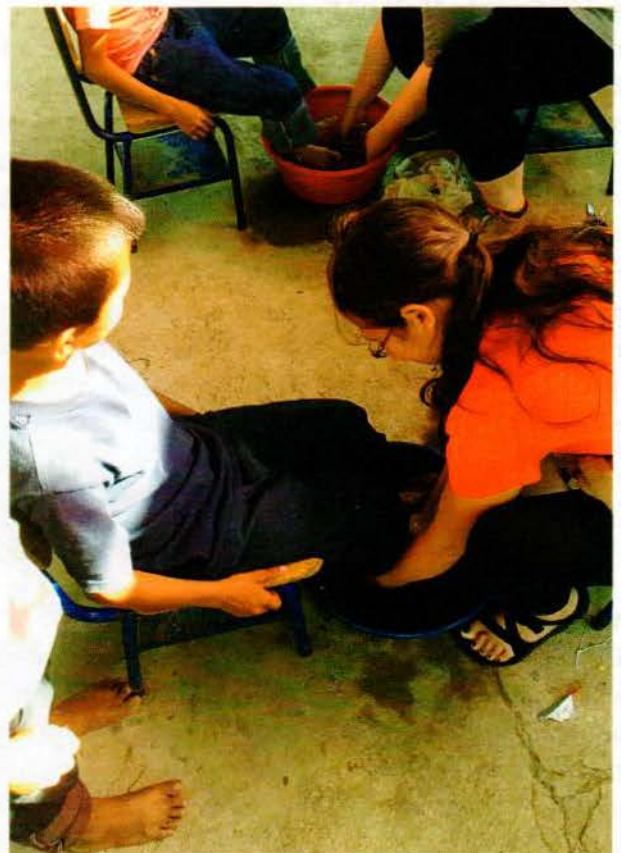
ECCC business technology instructors Judy Hurtt and Christy Ferguson were honored in September at the Mississippi Business Education Association's (MBEA) annual conference. Hurtt received the MBEA Outstanding Community College Business Educator award and Ferguson received the Outstanding Career and Technical Business Educator award. Ferguson is president-elect of MBEA.

Soles4Souls

In May, East Central Community College students traveled to Guatemala for a service-learning experience in partnership with Soles4Souls, a non-profit organization devoted to helping children around the world. In Guatemala, they visited orphanages, schools, and rural villages, distributing shoes to children in need. The students also received a hands-on education in Guatemalan history and culture. History instructor Betsy Anderson served as faculty advisor for the trip.

Classroom "Open House"

Classroom "Open House" professional development opportunities for faculty were implemented in fall 2015. Faculty choosing to participate opened up their classrooms for other faculty and staff to



visit to hear lectures, presentations on special topics, and/or guest speakers. One such Open House was a performance by woodwind artist and ECCC assistant band director Steve Moffett and pianist and music/keyboard instructor Dr. Justin Sharp. The duo presented a "Humor in Music" program in February.

MSVCC Instructor of the Year

East Central's Chris Ryals of Union was selected Mississippi Virtual Community College Instructor of the Year. Ryals was a drafting and design technology instructor. Chas Evans, who teaches guitar and music classes and also serves as director of the "Collegians" rock and roll band, was also nominated for the award. Ryals and Evans were recognized at the Creating Futures Through Technology conference in Biloxi in March.

ECCC/MUW Articulation Agreement

Students completing the Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology at East Central Community College can continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus thanks to a partnership announced in November. The new Articulation Agreement allows East Central graduates to transfer a predetermined amount of career and technical credit toward a Bachelor of Technology degree at MUW.



HEADWAE Honorees

Sophomore Ben Pace, a pre-dental major from Philadelphia, and mathematics instructor Jenna Wright of Madden represented ECCC at the 2015-16 Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program held in February in Jackson. The annual observance was established by the Mississippi Legislature to honor academically talented students and faculty members from each of the 36 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges. Honorees were invited to the State Capitol where they were welcomed by Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and recognized in each legislative chamber. A luncheon was also held during which each honoree was recognized.

Online Learning Recognition

Dr. Krista LeBrun, former dean of eLearning Education at East Central Community College, was one of 20 finalists for the Pearson 2016 Online Learning Excellence Awards for outstanding K-20 leaders working in online or blended learning environments. LeBrun was one of five finalists in the Excellence in Online Administration category. The awards honor educators and administrators who have demonstrated measurable best practices and innovation in online education.

Top 10 Program

East Central Community College was ranked No. 9 in the nation among the "50 Most Affordable Small Colleges for Hospitality Administration and Management 2015" by editors of Best Hospitality Degrees, an online resource to aid prospective students who desire to earn management positions in the growing tourism industry.

Lamplighters Conference

ECCC co-hosted the 2015 Lamplighters Conference in October with Meridian Community College. Three East Central faculty members were selected to attend the conference, which honors outstanding community and junior college instructors throughout the state: Luke Howell, collision repair technology; Cathy May, mathematics; and Melanie Pinter, associate degree nursing.

Instructor of the Year

Mathematics instructor Jenna Wright of Madden was named the 2015-16 Instructor of the Year at ECCC. Wright, who has been employed at the college since 2012, earned her bachelor's degree in math education at Troy University and her master's in statistics from Mississippi State University.

Annual Report Card

The annual Community College Performance Profile, or Report Card, once again gave ECCC high marks in several areas that were above the state averages. East Central achieved elite status in the area of student success, particularly excelling in the areas of Associate of Arts graduation rates and preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions. Overall student retention within for-credit programs, the number of students served in workforce training activities, the number of students experiencing increases in wages as well as the percentage increase in wages after training from East Central, and the number of GEDs awarded were other areas in which ECCC continued to be a leader in the state.

Reduction in Late Registration Period

Since 2014, ECCC has reduced the late registration period for students at the beginning of a semester from one week—or five class days prior to the pilot four-day class schedule—to two days. Internal research indicates that every day a student registers late after classes have begun has a significant correlation with lower grades, not completing, or dropping out. With only two days of late registration, students now only miss a maximum of one Monday-Wednesday class or one Tuesday-Thursday class. Correspondingly, the attrition rate has decreased 6 percent in two years.

Community Partnerships

Inaugural WarriorFest

ECCC hosted its inaugural WarriorFest April 8, with more than 500 people attending the family friendly event held on the north end of campus near the ECCC Pavilion and Lake area. Activities included a Hot Air Balloon Glow, 5-K Nite-Glow Run/Walk, KidZone and a fireworks show. 5 Finger Discount out of New Orleans, La., the feature band, played throughout the evening. A Golf Ball Drop fundraiser was also held, and a Festival Food Court served carnival style food. All proceeds benefited the ECCC Alumni Association.

Distinguished Young Women

All five current Distinguished Young Women from ECCC's five-county district attended the college this academic year. Distinguished Young Women is the largest and oldest national scholarship program for high school females. Attending East Central were Leake County's Distinguished Young Woman Charlie Wilcher of Edinburg, a mechanical engineering major; Neshoba County's Distinguished Young Woman Taylor Phillips of Philadelphia, a pre-dental major; Newton County's Distinguished Young Woman Codi Ballard of Decatur, a pre-medicine major; Scott County's Distinguished Young Woman Mackenzie Byrd of Sebastopol, a pre-medicine major; and Winston County's Distinguished Young Woman Paige Johnson of Louisville, a pre-dental major.



Military Appreciation

Retired United States Navy Captain Milton Smith of Decatur was guest speaker when ECCC honored military veterans at the annual Military Appreciation Breakfast held in November in Mabry Cafeteria. Members of Voce' sang the national anthem and trumpeter Nina Labue of Decatur, a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, played *Taps*.

Winston County Partnership

Taylor Machine Works, a major manufacturer of power industrial trucks located in Louisville, and East Central announced a partnership in October to prepare individuals for skilled jobs at the growing manufacturing company. Beginning Nov. 1, applicants for jobs at Taylor needed to have successfully passed the ACT WorkKeys Career Readiness Assessment offered by ECCC, which provides the assessment and helps applicants prepare for the test. Taylor also started giving preference to individuals who complete the Manufacturing Skills-Basic training program offered at ECCC's Louisville Career Advancement Center.

Media Appreciation

Approximately 40 members from area media, including representatives from television, radio, and newspaper, attended the annual Media Appreciation Day in November in the Mabry Cafeteria. Dr. Billy Stewart presented a campus update and the vocal ensemble Voce' performed.

PTK Advisory Board

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart was one of only 33 college presidents nationwide appointed to a new Presidential Advisory Board for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The board provides input into the organization's strategic plan, priorities, and direction. PTK, with headquarters in Jackson, is the largest honor society in American higher education with 1,285 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in the U.S. and overseas.

Combined Choirs

The combined concert choirs of East Central Community College and Newton County High School presented Handel's "Messiah" to a full house in November in Huff Auditorium as part of the college's continuing Cultural Arts Series. It was the first time the two choirs had performed on the same stage. The Cultural Arts Series brings performing artists and visual artists to campus throughout the year for both East Central students and the community.

First Lady Speaks

Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant was the keynote speaker for East Central Community College's annual Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony held in May in Huff Auditorium. Approximately 50 students received their pins. Having worked in the medical records profession for more than 39 years, Bryant has a strong passion for the healthcare of all Mississippians and is involved in a wide variety of healthcare events and initiatives.

Kids' College

East Central Community College again hosted its annual Kids' College Program in summer 2016 for ages 5-12. Numerous courses were offered each week beginning June 13-17 and continuing through the week of July 18-22. Among the offerings were camps for football, soccer, baseball, music, arts and crafts, theatre, carpentry, reading, writing, math, baking and cooking, science, and many more.



Military Friendly

For the fourth straight year, ECCC was designated as a Military Friendly School for its commitment to providing educational services to military students. ECCC received the award from Victory Media, which honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide that embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

Inaugural Parade

East Central's Wall O' Sound Marching Band marched in the Inaugural Parade of Gov. Phil Bryant on Jan. 12 in Jackson. Director Ed Girling received the invitation to participate on Dec. 8 from Inaugural staff member Gordon McMullin on behalf of Governor Bryant and the First Lady. The 2015-16 edition of the Wall O' Sound Band boasted 170 members and performed for each home football game and for select road games and Christmas parades.

Resource Planning and Development

Tobacco-Free Campus & Other Wellness Initiatives

East Central Community College officially became a tobacco-free campus on Jan. 1, 2016. The tobacco-free policy is just one part of a **2020 Vision** action plan to promote student and employee wellness initiatives that create a culture of health and wellness on campus. The initiative also includes a \$127,500 grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation that will provide funds for the college to hire a full-time Wellness Coordinator, make transformative equipment upgrades in the ECCC Wellness Center, establish a wellness assessment center on campus, and cover costs associated with campus challenge activities as well as reaching out to community organizations such as schools and civic groups. In addition, healthy eating options are now offered in the college cafeteria and in vending machines on campus.



Campus Upgrades and Improvements

- Students returned to campus in August 2015 to two newly renovated male dormitories, Newsome Hall and Todd Hall. The renovations included new flooring, furniture, lighting, restroom facilities, and heating and air conditioning, among other improvements. Common spaces also were updated with new furniture and large-screen televisions. The \$2.1 million cost of the renovations was funded by state of Mississippi bond funds.
- The college currently is working with architects on an update to its Campus Master Plan to ensure that campus physical resources are used in the most effective and efficient means as opportunities for growth are explored and to provide the best learning environment possible for students.
- Work is underway on a new three-story women's dormitory on the South Campus that will be located adjacent to Barber Hall, the college's newest women's dormitory. This is a much-needed on-campus living opportunity that will alleviate the waiting list each semester of female students who wish to reside on campus. The most recent data available shows that East Central Community College has the highest percentage of all students living on campus among all community colleges in Mississippi.

- East Central is in the final planning stages for the construction of eight new, lighted tennis courts to serve the men's and women's tennis teams, as well as the campus and local communities. The facility will include parking and spectator areas, which are not possible at the current location.
- Planning also is underway for a much-needed Band Hall to be located behind the existing Vickers Fine Arts Center.
- In addition to new facilities, several campus areas received upgrades or renovations. The bathrooms in the much used Huff Auditorium were completely renovated and updated in May and June 2016. New seating was installed in both the Thrash Auditorium in Newton Hall and the auditorium in the Vickers Fine Arts Center.
- A project to implement new, consistent and branded campus exterior building signage and interior common area signage was begun.
- Preliminary work on a project to move all campus utilities underground began in spring 2016. It is anticipated that the underground installation will begin in fall 2016 and is expected to be completed by fall 2017.
- The replacement of all classroom furniture with new college-standard desks, chairs and tables was completed in spring 2016.
- The sand volleyball court was relocated from the front of Todd Hall to the ECCC Pavilion/Lake area to provide more access for all East Central students to enjoy this activity. A second sand volleyball court is planned for the same location.

Technology Grant

The Drafting and Design Technology program at ECCC was awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. The grant was awarded to those promoting surveying and professional licensure and was based on "the college's need for equipment and the merit of the education that was being provided for the students."

Warrior Golf Classic

Golfers representing Wheeler Drug Store in Decatur claimed top honors in the Championship Flight of the 15th annual East Central Community College Warrior Golf Classic held May 12 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw. Sponsored by the ECCC Alumni Association, the four-person scramble netted \$10,132 for student scholarships. The tournament was held in May for the first time and the tee time moved up one hour to 9:00 a.m.

Legislative Luncheon

ECCC students, faculty, and administrators participated in the 2016 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Legislative Luncheon Jan. 26 at the First Baptist Church of Jackson. Five students representing each county in the college's district helped greet legislators, ECCC's Chef Barry Karrh and his students prepared and served appetizers for the guests, and music/guitar instructor Chas Evans played guitar during the event. The state's community and junior colleges host the annual event to show appreciation to the elected officials for their support of community college education and to showcase the talents of students and faculty.



Emergency Preparedness

ECCC conducted an exercise Nov. 5 to test its emergency communication and preparedness to react to the threat of an active shooter on campus. The exercise was designed to test the college's emergency communication system, campus active shooter emergency protocols, and ensure faculty, staff, and students are prepared to respond in the event of an

actual active shooter. During the exercise, East Central used its emergency communication system—called Warrior Alert—to alert the campus community via text, voicemail, and email about the test of the system and the active shooter exercise. Faculty went through the campus active shooter protocol in their classrooms, and staff members also went through the campus active shooter protocol during the exercise, as well as assisted students who were not in a class during that period.

New Band Uniforms

For the first time in several years, the college's Wall O' Sound Marching Band will sport new uniforms. Under the direction of Ed Girling, new, branded uniforms have been ordered for the band, color guard, and Centralettes dance line.

Boykin Joins Advisory Group

Regena Boykin, associate director for technology management at ECCC, was selected to serve on the Jenzabar EXi Registration Advisory Group. This group serves as a customer resource to the EX Advisory Board and helps set the direction for the new EXi for Registration. Membership is made up of product developers from Jenzabar and representatives from the EX customer base who have demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the EX Registration Module. Jenzabar is the college's administrative software provider.

Statewide Appointment

David Case, ECCC's vice president for institutional research and effectiveness, was appointed as the community college representative on the Review and Standards Committee of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

Online Elections

The college began holding online elections for student activities in fall 2015, including the 2016-17 Student Body Association election and the 2015 Homecoming Queen election, among others.

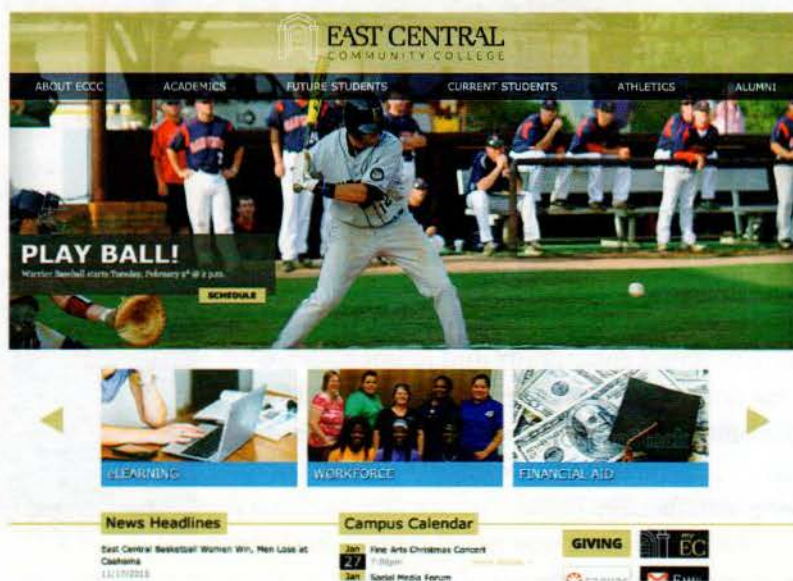
Communication

New Websites

The college will launch a much-needed redesigned and enhanced eccc.edu website in fall 2016. The website will include a more modern design that is responsive to all devices and will contain better, more intuitive navigation. The website is one of the college's main tools for recruiting prospective students and creating awareness about the college among all constituents. The college will also launch a new athletics website in fall 2016 at www.ecwarriors.com that will better market and promote the college's 10 varsity sports teams and coaches.

Mobile App

The college launched its first mobile application in March 2016 that is available in both the Apple and Android app stores. This app is powered by BFAC, a Mississippi-based company. The mobile app includes information and links to the college's social media, news, calendar, myEC, and other areas, as well as easy access to the college's eLearning online web area. In addition, those who allow push notifications when downloading the app will receive other important updates from the college as that feature is incorporated in the future.



Live Streaming

The college began providing live streaming over the internet of several events during the 2015-16 academic year. Home football games were live streamed in fall 2015. Commencement was live streamed in May 2016 with over 300 viewers. The NJCAA Region 23 Baseball Tournament games were also live streamed in May 2016. The college's Office of Public Information will increase the use of live streaming of select events during the next academic year.

Notes in the Margin

East Central began production in spring 2016 of a second book by retired English instructor Ovid Vickers sharing the history of the college. *Notes in the Margin: A Collection of Columns About East Central Community College* is a collection of essays about ECCC and its people which ran in nearby newspapers over the past three decades. The book will be available for purchase in fall 2016. In 2013, Vickers wrote *The East Central I Knew: A History of East Central Community College*.

Sports Information

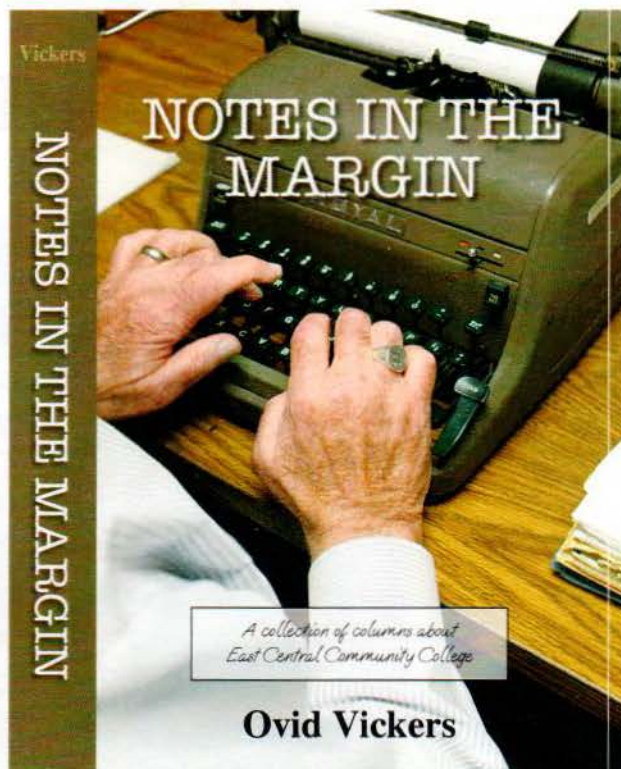
Tierra Robinson was hired in February as the college's first Sports Information/Communication Specialist. In this new role, Robinson is responsible for overseeing all aspects of media, sports information, and promotion of the college's 10 intercollegiate sports teams, as well as assisting the Office of Public Information in overall college media, promotion, external and internal communications and marketing initiatives.

Nationally Recognized

A report released by WalletHub.com in fall 2015 named the Mississippi community college system as the best in the nation. The same report listed East Central Community College as one of the Top 100 Best Community Colleges in the nation among 670 like institutions studied. The ranking was based on cost and financing, classroom experience, education outcomes, and career outcomes. WalletHub.com is a personal finance website launched in August 2013.

Locally Preferred

The most recent longitudinal data reveals that East Central Community College enrolled nearly 50 percent of the public high school seniors from its five-county district from the spring 2014 graduating class, up from 43 percent four years earlier. Recent data also shows that East Central Community College ranks in the upper tier of the Mississippi community college system in the percentage of all students enrolled from within the district. Data further indicates that ECCC has the lowest percentage of students from outside the state of Mississippi among all community and junior colleges in the state.





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